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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK. R.N.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN 1915

Too late for reporting in the February JOURNAL, the heads of American nursing organizations met at the end of January to plan for the meetings of 1915. Genevieve Cooke, president of the American Nurses' Association and Dr. Helen Criswell, chairman of the Arrangements Committee, were there from California, and the main lines of action were decided as follows:

Congress members will begin to assemble on Saturday, May 29, 1915, and on Sunday, 30, there will be informal reunions. Monday, May 31, will be International Day. Countries in membership will be greeted and new ones received. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be Congress days, the programs being partly arranged by sections, so as to give time for the many subjects pressing for consideration. On Thursday evening there will be a banquet. Friday and Saturday will be for sight seeing. Meantime, somewhere in the week our national bodies of nurses, the American Nurses' Association, the Public Health Association, and the League for Nursing Education (Superintendents Society) will hold their own business meetings at dates arranged by themselves, in some one of the many meeting places at our disposal.

The meeting places will be within the Fair Grounds, and the headquarters will be the "Inside Inn" where our members generally will put up. Its charges will cover the gate entrance for those who wish to go outside the Fair Grounds.

No very definite plans regarding a nursing exhibit can be made until our annual meetings next April, but one feature that has been settled is that a most generous offer has been made by Jane A. Delano, head of the Red Cross Nursing Service, who will give two prizes for the best inventions by nurses, one, a hundred dollar prize for the best, and the second a fifty dollar prize for the second best invention. Specifications or conditions covering these prizes will be decided by Miss Delano.

It was decided not to attempt a Historical Pageant, as, with our absence of historical background, this could not be made especially interesting and would be only a weak copy of what has been done per-

fectly in England and Germany. Instead, the special effort and emphasis of the Congress will be laid upon Education Day, which is to be made the occasion of a world wide offering to the Florence Nightingale Memorial Foundation. This, as agreed upon at Cologne, is to be a chair similar to our chair of Nursing and Health at Teachers' College, and is to be developed whenever possible in some college or university in Miss Nightingale's native land.

Education Day will be celebrated at Berkeley, where there is a glorious Greek (out-door) theatre. In this beautiful setting we will have our program (the voice carries perfectly, we are assured) and, at a given point, nurses from all lands, states, cities, training schools, or organized groups, will successively lay their offerings on a suitable raised place in the center of the amphitheatre. This can be made a very charming ceremonial if all will wear uniform or some national costume. Besides some feature of dress which shall show their professional alma mater (as uniform of school, or sash or band with name of training school, or symbol of professional organization, as in the case of those whose contribution has come from, say, a state society or a nurses' club) beside this, all will be asked to carry banners which shall show the nation or state from which they come. Their offerings may be large or small, and presented in purse, bag, basket, or any picturesque way; not collected into one fund, but given in many parts, as this will enhance the beauty of the ceremony. Thus, for instance, let us suppose that each of our state societies sends its messenger with an offering; each alumnae society as well; each training school of standing, those in a state uniting, if they wish, to send a nurse representing them all, or separately if they prefer. Special graduate societies will contribute, such as our Colored Nurses' National Association, each sending its messenger. Foreign countries will bring their donations and we shall see Japan, China, India, the Philippines, Cuba, and Hawaii, as well as the countries of Europe and the colonies of England. Our Indian nurses will appear, and perhaps a Maori nurse can come. The vast size of the out-door theatre will give plenty of room, and it can easily be imagined that the scene will be a charming one. No fear of rain, of course, for California knows its weather.

This, then, will be the special feature of our California Congress, and all the nurses of the world are asked to help make it a success.

The recent appearance of that most fascinating book, Sir Edward Cook's *Life of Florence Nightingale*, should spur and stimulate every woman to recognize her debt to that great pioneer, who was a conscious emancipator of women in addition to all else, for, we are told, while she was yet feeling her way to a career she said to herself "I must open a better life to women."

The chairman of the Education Committee and of the Nightingale Fund is Miss Nutting, with Miss Noyes, Miss Cooke, and Miss Gardner as committee members.

As we go to press the word comes from England of a splendid gift to the endowment fund of Bedford College, London, by Sir Hildred Carlile, in memory of his mother, which leads us to hope that there our Nightingale chair of nursing may be established.

The Editorial Bureau of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition sends out a bulletin headed "Fifteen Nations to Send 6000 Nurses to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition," and goes on to say: "A tidal wave, white-capped and wide-reaching, is scheduled to overflow the streets of San Francisco early in June, 1915."

It is well to aim high, but it is to be feared that the Editorial Bureau is counting on the attendance of more nurses than can be gathered together. However, time will show how large a proportion of the membership of the national and international societies will be at the Exposition and at the conventions to be held there.